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Security Council

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Letter dated 24 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the Pakistan presidency, the Security Council is scheduled to have a debate on the subject "Complex crises and United Nations response" on 28 May 2004.

The Presidency has prepared a non-paper (see annex) to help guide the discussion on this subject.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Non-paper for public meeting on 28 May 2004 on complex crises and United Nations response

In the **Charter of the United Nations**, Member States have committed themselves to take "effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace" (Article 1.1). A fuller realization of this commitment is contingent upon not only resolving the actual conflict situations but also on recognizing the structural causes of conflict and addressing them systematically. In specific terms, this requires the development of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable approach by the United Nations system for conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peace-building.

2. Since the 1990s, the Security Council and the UN system have increasingly been called upon to intervene in complex crises – conflicts that not only have military and security dimensions but also political, economic, social and humanitarian facets. The prominent cases include Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sierra Leone, DRC, Liberia, Cote d' Ivoire, etc. Such crises often transcend state boundaries and have increasingly regional dimensions. The United Nations is expected also to stay engaged with countries emerging from conflict and assist them in making a successful transition to durable peace and sustainable development. The recent examples of Guinea Bissau and Burundi illustrate this phenomenon. Preventing and effectively responding to these complex, multidimensional crises is a matter of high priority now, which also entails significant investment of UN time, efforts and resources.

3. The Heads of State and Government, meeting in the course of the **Millennium Summit** in September 2000, recognized this imperative need and pledged "to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in addressing conflict at all stages from prevention to settlement to post-conflict peace-building." In this context, among other things, they "strongly encourage[d] the development within the United Nations system and more widely of comprehensive and integrated strategies to address the root causes of conflicts, including their economic and social dimensions" (Resolution S/1318/2000).

4. The Secretary-General, in his report on "**Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change**," noted: "The United Nations is a complex institution with a global mandate, an ambitious agenda and complicated machinery for addressing a vast range of often interrelated issues." Noting that significant improvements had been made since 1997 to making the United Nations function in a more cohesive and coherent manner, the Secretary-General added: "We have to do better still, however, if the United Nations is to achieve the system-wide coordination demanded by the daunting social, economic and

political challenges that it confronts each day. The lives and well-being of large numbers of people depend on our ability to work together more effectively" (A/57/387).

5. Complex crises test both the will of the international community to take appropriate decisions as well as the capacity of the Organization to follow through with sustained action. The overall political, economic and humanitarian costs imposed by these complex crises are of serious concern to the international community. An effective collective response to these crises requires parallel action on several inter-related tracks including containment and resolution of conflict, establishment of necessary security conditions, protection of civilians, security sector reforms, provision of humanitarian relief, end to impunity, establishing justice and the rule of law, promoting good governance, and development of democratic institutions. Similarly, such a response must also include strategies to spur economic revival and reconstruction and address the underlying causes of conflict, including *inter alia* poverty, underdevelopment, socio-economic inequities and inequalities, systematic political and ethnic discrimination, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and illegal exploitation of natural resources. The intrinsic link between peace and development must remain at the core of the UN response.

6. The overall effectiveness of UN response depends *inter alia* on four crucial elements:

(i) Timely analysis and assessment of potential and actual conflicts and crises;
(ii) Strategic coherence in policy response;
(iii) Enhanced coordination within the UN system;
(iv) Closer cooperation with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, regional countries as well as humanitarian and development partners.

7. Over the past year, the Security Council has held several debates focusing on individual aspects of complex crises and international response – including, among others, protection of civilians in armed conflict; proliferation of mercenaries, small arms and light weapons; justice and the rule of law; cooperation with regional organizations; role of the United Nations in post-conflict stabilization, and the role of business in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and post-conflict peace-building. The proposed debate on "complex crises and UN response" will be an opportunity to take a strategic look at these inter-related issues and see how long-term, comprehensive, integrated and composite approaches can be developed and implemented with enhanced system-wide coordination.

8. During the debate, several questions could be considered:

- Within its charter responsibilities, what role the Security Council can play in addressing the multifarious dimensions of complex crises, particularly in conflict prevention and in facilitating post-conflict peace-building?

- How the capacities of the Secretariat can be enhanced for timely analysis and assessment with a view to early warning and preventive diplomatic action?

- Within their respective mandates and competences, how best coordination can be promoted between the good offices of the Secretary-General and actions of the Security Council during the different stages of conflict?

- What measures can be taken to ensure that, along with conflict management and resolution, the Council also devotes attention to the underlying causes of conflict more comprehensively and helps create conditions for durable peace?

- In the context of peace and development, how could the various organs of the United Nations positively interact and contribute to durable solutions to complex crises -- acting within their respective Charter mandates and roles?

- How could closer interaction with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations be promoted to create synergies in efforts for timely action as well as comprehensive and durable solutions to complex crises?

- How can the UN agencies and programmes as well as international financial institutions contribute in the effort for evolving comprehensive response to complex crises?

Format

9. The Council will consider the theme in a Public Meeting with the possible participation of the Secretariat and the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Outcome

10. The Presidency will prepare a summary of proposals and suggestions, on its own authority, and circulate subsequently.